

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 08474 151957Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAB-01
/068 W

----- 015254 /73

R 151910Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0065
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 8474

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PN
SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS; LOCAL MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMANIAN NEW MEDIA REPORTED U.S. NEGOTIATING TEAM'S
ARRIVAL IN BRIEF, BUT PROMINENT COVERAGE ON DECEMBER 13 AND
14. MOST NEWSPAPER ARTICLES SAID LITTLE ABOUT NEGOTIATING
AGENDA EXCEPT TO REITERATE PANAMA'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE
NEGOTIATIONS AND TO CONCLUDE THEM SWIFTLY--AND FAVORABLY TO
PANAMA. DEC. 14 "EL PANAMA AMERICA", HOWEVER, HEADLINED
LANDS AND WATERS AND EMPLOYEE RIGHTS AS PRINCIPAL ISSUES TO
BE DISCUSSED THIS ROUND.

2. DEC. 13 "LA ESTRELLA" INCLUDED A MAJOR EDITORIAL, WHICH WAS
EXCERPTED AND SECONDED IN DEC. 14 "CRITICA". (SEE USIS/PANAMA 8411)
"LA ESTRELLA" EDITORIAL ADVOCATED NEED NOT JUST FOR NEGOTIATIONS
TO CONTINUE BUT TO CONCLUDE RAPIDLY--BEFORE (PANAMANIAN)
"PATIENCE TURNS INTO DESPERATION". EDITORIAL PRAISED
SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE'S STATEMENTS SUPPORTIVE OF NEGOTIATIONS
BUT ADDED THAT GOOD WILL TOWARDS PANAMA
EVIDENCED BY THE USG WAS NOT ENOUGH. WORDS MUST BE MATCHED BY
DEEDS, IT STATED, AS THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE GONE ON TOO LONG AND
STILL " THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL CANNOT BE SEEN".
IF THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES, EDITORIAL STATED, TO MAINTAIN
POSITIONS "COMPLETELY INADMISSABLE TO PANAMA", MORE NOTES,
MEMORANDA AND POSITION PAPERS ARE POINTLESS. IT CONCLUDED
"IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT MR. VANCE ORDERS NOT JUST THAT THE
NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE BUT THAT THEY CONCLUDE IN A VERY BRIEF
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 08474 151957Z

PERIOD OF TIME".

3. "CRITICA" OF DEC. 15 IN ITS BONA FIDE COLUMN FOLLOWS
SIMILIAR LINE COMPLAINING THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT
DEALING WITH SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BUT ARE STILL PRODUCING DRAFT
PROPOSALS TO THESE ISSUES.
JORDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PANAMA08474
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760462-0548
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761241/aaaabize.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: LOCAL MEDIA REACTION
TAGS: PFOR, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006